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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2018

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Hom

From the Pastor

Quick! Name what is probably the most well-known verse in the New Testament! Did you say John 3.16? You were right!

Jesus proclaims: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.*

(I always like to add verse 17: *Indeed, God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*)

Here's the interesting thing...how do we know that's what Jesus said? Who is Jesus telling? Who remembered, and later told others, so that it would eventually be written down, so we could hold up cardboard signs at football games today? The disciples? The crowd?

It was one person, someone too afraid to go see Jesus during the day, when he might be caught out. A Pharisee, who quietly sneaked through streets and alleyways under cover of darkness, hoping to not be recognized. One man, who, in spite of himself, his position, and community opposition, was drawn to Jesus and wanted to learn from him. It was Nicodemus. We remember Nicodemus in conversation with Jesus about being born again, born of the Spirit, but we forget that the conversation goes on, and the only soul Jesus speaks those treasured words to is Nicodemus.

And in chapters later in the gospel of John, it is Nicodemus, alongside fellow Pharisee Joseph of Arimathea, who tends to Jesus' body after he's died, bringing one hundred pounds of myrrh and aloe to wrap into the linen burial cloths.

If it weren't for Nicodemus, we'd never know those words of God's love and purpose. In one night, Jesus opened Nicodemus' eyes and heart, speaking words that were so remarkable, so powerful, that he couldn't forget them. Words that became so written on his heart that he dared step forward out of darkness into the glaring, revealing, life-changing light at the foot of the cross. Words that matter. Words that he taught to others. Words he repeated over and over so that they would be remembered. Words that have been shared throughout generations. Words that inspired Nicodemus to do good better.

May we be like Nicodemus.

With joy,
Pastor Suellen

Notes from the Pastor

- * **Building Bridges, Building Connection, Building our Congregation...Together!** Fifth Sunday One Service begins April 29, 2018. There will be one worship service at 9:30 a.m. Find out who sits in your pew at the other service. Put a name with a face. Celebrate with our whole congregation!

General Notes

- * **East County Community Orchestra**, presents a concert Sunday, April 8, 2018, at 3 p.m., at Horner Performing Arts Center, David Douglas High School. Free admission.
- * **Save The Date: Preschool Closing Celebration is June 24 at Noon.** A BBQ lunch will be served with a short program. Please put it on your calendar.

Friends of Trees

Friends of Trees annual Centennial, Glenfair, Hazelwood, and Mill Park planting was staged at Gethsemane January 27. We have used the space for eight years now. This year, 160 volunteers helped plant 132 trees between breakfast and lunch, a herculean effort that can only be done when the community comes together. There was strong support from the David Douglas High School tree team! We are extremely grateful to be able to use Gethsemane's space. Anyone interested in getting yard or street trees at their own house, or who wish to join in the fun next year are invited to go to friendsoftrees.org to sign in. Andrew Land



April Preschool News

March included Construction Night at preschool, a very fun time for preschoolers and families to build with cardboard boxes and duct tape. It is amazing what they build: Robots, castles, houses, cars, etc.

Using Godly Play curriculum at our Lenten chapels is a wonderful way for children to learn the Easter story. In class, we talked about God's creatures, big and small. Dinosaurs, snakes, lions, and lambs were themes during March.

The Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction was a huge success on February 11. Over \$2000 was raised for the youth. Thank you again to everyone who donated items for the auction and raffle, and to those who donated their time and labor. We could not have done this without you all. **Spring break is March 26-30** and, when we return, we will get ready for the changes of springtime.

More Quilting Hours!

Have you always wanted to help the Gethsemane Quilters but couldn't because they meet on Thursdays? The quilters are going to **start meeting on the third Saturday of the month between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the community hall (in addition to Thursdays)** so that others can join in our fellowship. We would like to invite everyone 13 years and older to join us. No experience is necessary. Please bring a sack lunch; we'll provide coffee and lemonade. Questions? Please contact Karen Reagan (503.257.7410).

Lutheran World Relief/Project Promise

It's time to send out personal care and school kits to Lutheran World Relief/Project Promise. We need your donations by **April 22** to assemble the kits for mailing in early May. I have inventoried the supplies we have already, but there are certain items we especially need to complete these kits. For the personal care kits, we need sturdy combs and light-weight towels (20" x 40" or 52" x 27", dark colors preferred). For the school kits, we need notebooks (70 sheets, wide- or college-ruled, 8" by 10 1/2"), rulers with centimeters on a least one side, pencil sharpeners, blunt or safety scissors, black or blue ballpoint pens, and boxes of 16 or 24 crayons. I'm hoping to send 100 kits. We can now track our kits so, after shipping in early May, we'll find out where the kits end up in our global community.

Many thanks for your donations! Karla Hills

Community Action

Working with the Community Action and Outreach committee, I am amazed at how intertwined so many mission efforts are. By helping each other out, they can achieve so much more together than any could alone. A great example is SnowCap and Backpack Buddies. In February, Patty, her friend Debbie, and I got the chance to help some of our friends from Savage Memorial Presbyterian pack the weekend meal bags that get distributed to children at nearby Mill Park Elementary School (along with four other schools with kids facing food insecurity). SnowCap lets Backpack Buddies use their warehouse space to do the packing and uses their leverage to obtain the food as inexpensively as possible from the Oregon Food Bank. The people involved in Backpack Buddies volunteer to pack the food and distribute it at the schools, helping SnowCap extend its reach to people in need. And donations go as far as they possibly can to help kids. Packing took us about two hours and we packed enough for five schools for two weeks. Since food only gets packed every other week and there are many groups helping with Backpack Buddies, it will be a while before it is our turn again to do the packing. If you are interested in helping out or participating in the handing out of the bags to kids at Mill Park Elementary, let me know and I can put you in contact with the right people.



Another good example of collaborating ministries is Compassion Connect, which organizes Dress for FREEdom. Dress for FREEdom takes place in our own Gethsemane space every year. Its purpose is to combat human trafficking by engaging with the young women who are at greatest risk of becoming victims. They are invited into a loving space to receive fun makeovers, have their picture taken, and receive a free dress while learning they are loved and valued. They are introduced to programs and mentorships that can keep them engaged after the day is done. It is a great program and it takes place in mid-April. They are so thankful every year that our church is able to help.

Compassion Connect also runs mini health clinics in various neighborhoods across town. Mini clinics are repeated four times per year, but are staggered at the different locations so that there are frequent opportunities for health care that people in need can at least travel to, if not walk down the street to. The first mini clinic in the David Douglas neighborhood took place the last weekend in January. I went to check it out. It was great! There was a doctor giving check-ups and prescriptions (paid for out of the mini clinic's fund). Often there is a dentist set up in a trailer (though one wasn't available at the January clinic). There was a physical therapist. There were vision exams. Someone was even giving haircuts! All were volunteering their efforts. Over 30 people were served. I saw some familiar faces amongst the volunteers there from the Backpack Buddies program. More evidence of collaboration in God's work. The next mini clinic will be in April. If you think you'd like to volunteer or just check it out, let me know and I can tell you what I know.

The group working on starting a Family Promise affiliate in our area to continue the ministry of Daybreak (hosting families without homes) meets the third Monday of every month at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Family Promise Metro East is still setting up its 501c3 status and is beginning the process of looking for host churches. If you are interested in this ministry, it would be great to see you there! We can carpool. The next meeting is April 16.

April will be a busy month! And don't forget our own Rummage Sale coming up the first weekend in May. Have a great month and keep on with your great work, growing God's Kingdom in every little way.

Burke Strobel
Community Action and Outreach

CYFM Ministry, April and Beyond

March was a great month for the youth! We attended a middle school lock-in at a church in Vancouver, WA, we picked up two laptops from our hardware grant, and we have a sizeable number of kids looking forward to attending Camp Lutherwood this summer!

Sunday School (Education Hour) will move into second service beginning April 8. Our kiddos will be excused after Children's Moment with Pr. Suellen, and we will return for communion. Please feel encouraged to send your kids back for Sunday School activities. This is an opportunity for us to turn Bible studies into words they can understand and elaborate on, and gives the kids a chance to get their fill of crafts, songs, and new friends!!

April 8 is also a Youth Work Day! Please feel free to stay after second service and participate in moving pews around to make them wheelchair and walker friendly. We will also be cleaning up Sunday School supplies, the choir loft (old VBS materials), etc.

Camp Lutherwood will be on-site at Gethsemane Lutheran on April 10 at 5:30 pm. Dinner provided. This is an inter-generational faith formation night, and it's definitely going to be fun! If you are a family receiving camperships this year, please, please attend this meeting so we can be sure to disperse funds to all who want it.

30-Hour Famine is April 27-28. We will begin fasting at NOON on Friday. This will require the honor system until we can all meet at church. I have a night full of fun activities planned, and a movie before bed. Saturday I have planned some activities that anyone can come participate in. PLEASE do not bring your little ones under 12 to fast with us, though they can DEFINITELY come Saturday and help us with local service projects. Please sign up as soon as you are able to commit. I want to ensure there is plenty of food for our "Food Around the World" Potluck at the end of our famine. If you can't, or don't want, to fast with us but want to be involved please ask me how you can help. There are a lot of opportunities! If you would like to help us fundraise (outside of our congregation) please find the link on our website or facebook and share it with your friends and family. If you need help finding the link, send me an email. I'll get back to you soon.

God's Work, Our Hands service day is **September 8** this year. Our youth ministry will partner with SnowCap to provide daycare for the little ones not quite big enough to be helpful in the field. Please let me know if there is anything you would like to get involved with for GWOH. We are hoping to assign committee leaders ASAP. **Keep marking those calendars!**

APRIL 8 - Youth Work Day
APRIL 10 - Lutherwood on Location
APRIL 27-28 - 30-Hour Famine
MAY 12 - Parent's Night Out
JULY 9-13 - VBS

Thank you all for being so supportive of me in this new position. I'm looking forward to a crazy, busy, awesome, fun year!

Jasmine Anderson
jasmine@glcportland.org

Gethsemane Lutheran Church — Income and Expense Budget Report through February 2018

Budgeted Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Actual Difference
\$360,835	\$46,341	\$52,660	(\$6,318)
Attendance 2017:127; 2018:120		Cathey Myers, Financial Manager	

April 2018 Calendar

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 EASTER!! 8 & 10:30a – Worship 9ish - Egg Hunt, Easter Breakfast	2 7p-Band	3 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Brass Ensemble 7p-SwingBand	4 4:30p- Confirmation 9a-Preschool PlanMtg. 5:30p-Clutter 6p-Work@ SnowCap	5 7:30a- BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 1:20p-Chrysalis pm-DressFor FreedomSetUp 6p-Bells 7p-Choir	6	7 <i>10:30a-Noon Pastor's Saturday Office Hours</i>
8 8 & 10:30a- Worship New Sunday School Time (during late service) YouthWorkDay (after church)	9 7p-Band 6:30p-Finance Mtg.	10 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Brass Ensemble 7p-SwingBand 6p-CYFM Mtg. 5:30p-Luther- wood On Location	11 4:30p- Confirmation 5:30p-Clutter	12 7:30a- BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 10a-MutualMin. 12:30p- Orchestra 1:20p-Chrysalis 6p-Bells 7p-Choir	13 DRESS FOR FREEDOM	14 DRESS FOR FREEDOM 10:30a- BusyBees
15 8 & 10:30a- Worship <i>1-4p-Brass Ensemble</i>	16 7p-Band	17 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Brass Ensemble 7p-SwingBand 7p- ChurchCouncil	18 4:30p- Confirmation 5:30p-Clutter	19 7:30a- BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 1:20p-Chrysalis 6p-Bells 7p-Choir	20	21 10a-2p Quilting
22 8 & 10:30a- Worship Rummage Sale Collection	23 7p-Band 6:30p-MPNA	24 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Brass Ensemble 7p-SwingBand	25 4:30p- Confirmation 5:30p-Clutter	26 <i>NoPreschool</i> 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 1:20p-Chrysalis 6p-Bells 7p-Choir	27 30-Hour Famine (World Vision Fundraiser) Rummage Sale Set-Up	28 30-Hour Famine (World Vision Fundraiser)
29 Fifth Sunday One Service, 9:30 a.m. <i>Activity Room in use in Afternoon</i>	30 7p-Band	May 1 MAY DAY			May 4 RUMMAGE SALE, 8-4	May 5 RUMMAGE SALE, 8-4

April Birthdays

Amy Deetz, April 2
Casey Morton, April 3
Diane Bemrose, April 4
Wynn Stafford, April 5
Kenna Cumming, April 8
Carl Perkins, April 11
Jan Brown, April 12
Kyle Qualheim, April 19
Dave Qualheim, April 19
Rachel Coughlin, April 21
Aiden Lindstrom, April 23
Esther Butenschoen, April 25
Kay Qualheim, April 27
Matthew Burk, April 28
Brooke Benfield, April 30
Doug Glenn, April 30
Cameron Herbert, April 30
NO Anniversaries in April

Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Darlene Kuehmichel; Ginny Barton's friend Golda; Marian Aleckson; Linda Babcock and grandson Josiah; Aiden Lindstrom; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; Jennifer Peck; Lucille Langseth; Sharon Lee's relative Terri and friend Sandy; Virginia Haacke; Kay Qualheim's niece Sherry; Wynn Stafford; Matthew Green.

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Kay Qualheim's niece Sue; Nettie Ubrick's great-grandson Jacob and friend Becky; Shirla Rapp's cousin Julie; Colleen Barnett's relatives Linda and Ken; Barbara Keyes; Cathey Myers' friends Barbara and Cruz; Roseann Libonati's relative, Dawn; Pr. Suellen's cousin Travis Brown; Roberta Vidlund's friend Laurie and mom Maribel Pairan; Bob Law; Pat Edwards; Randi Bateman's cousin Nick; Becky Keiper's relative Tom; Joni Pokorny's friend Becky Folkner; Jo Nelson's friends Emily and Mike. Vern Keiper, Becky's brother-in-law, and Lana, Kim Butenschoen's friend.

Homebound Brothers and Sisters: Lucille Langseth, Marian Aleckson, and Wynn Stafford. *(Refer to your directory or call the church for contact info.)*

Lectionary for April 2018

April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Acts 10:34-43	Acts 4:32-35	Acts 3:12-19	Acts 4:5-12	Acts 8:26-40
Psalms 118:1-2,14-24	Psalms 133	Psalms 4	Psalms 23	Psalms 22:25-31
I Corinthians 15:1-11	1 John 1:1-2:2	1 John 3:1-7	1 John 3:16-24	1 John 4:7-21
Mark 16:1-8	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:36b-48	John 10:11-18	John 15:1-8

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Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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